TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

# NEWSLETTER

AUGUST, 1997

**OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT: Bud Hughes K4CWG 269-0779 SECRETARY: Marty Coin WD4JNM 264-9447**
**V. PRESIDENT: Pike Abell W4EPU 269-4208 TREASURER: Clyde Lee K4EOS 267-9375**

**CLUB INFORMATION**

| | |
|---|---|
| **TARC MEETINGS :** | **Monthly on 4th Tuesday at 1900 hrs at Jaycee Building.** |
| **TARC NETS:** | **VIP - Thursdays at 1000 hrs on 146.910** |
| | **FRIENDSHIP - Thursdays at 1830 hrs. ao146.910** |
| | **MOSQUITO - Wednesdays at 1900 hrs on 28.333** |
| **TARC REPEATERS:** | **VHF - 146.910 and146.970. UHF 444.150** |

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**By Bud Hughes K4CWG**

One of the highlights of this club's activities is the annual Field Day. This year's club participation and visitor count set a record for TARC's Field Day event. Our unofficial point count seems to be greater than last year. Warren, AF4EA has completed and submitted all supporting documentation to the ARRL. Soon we will get the official results (how many points we earned and how we compared with other participating clubs). I really enjoyed the camaraderie, and appreciate all the hard work so many put into making this year's event a success.

Our new friends from Brazil (led by Ivan Seelig - PY2US) are staying at the Holiday Inn in Titusville. Thanks to all of you who helped with the cook-out on Sunday. I don't speak nor understand Portuguese but from my observation our friends must have enjoyed the food because they really did a good job of keeping the two grills going at top speed.

The bicycle riders continue to enjoy the early Sunday morning ride out in the wildlife preserve. We are not only enjoying the bike ride, but we get to see nature at it's finest.

The next fox hunt is going to be a good one. Joe, KE4AEB has something up his sleeve that will interest all of us. If you would like to ride along and seek out that ole sly fox let me know and we will arrange for you to ride with someone.

Our next Hamfest is November 8. We still need several chairs to be filled. Over all we are on time and are in the process of distributing flyers to promote the event.

Several of the club members meet at Denny's each Thursday at 6:30 PM for dinner. We would be happy for those who have not been with us to come down and have the evening meal with us.

See you at the next club meeting. 73's and best wishes.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

AUG. 3 KF4RWK TERESA SHINN
AUG. 3 N4MOD JIM HARRIS
AUG. 4 KC4ZHE JOHN HALASZ
AUG. 5 KC4VMQ DONNA CLARK
AUG. 7 KE4SEW GREG BENNETT
AUG. 7 N1OGE BERTHA BONARDI
AUG. 7 KF4SEK NICHOLAS GRAY
AUG.10 KE4BBG TOYIA NGUYEN
AUG.12 KE4BBB CLINTON GRIFFIN
AUG.14 AD4VV BOBBI SUE WOOD
AUG.16 W4EPU PIKE ABELL
AUG.16 AD4NA TOM NGUYEN
AUG.17 N9EZV KEN TENDICK
AUG.18 KE4BBH JIM PREVATT
AUG.20 KC4WGU MIKE HENSLEY
AUG.21 WD4JNM MARTY COIN
AUG.22 KD4GPJ RICHARD McMILLAN
AUG.23 KD4VFU JACK HALL
AUG.24 W1KBI ROBERT BRINK
AUG.24 W2SDB BILL EPPLEY
AUG.28 KD4MIW SHARON RUSSELL
AUG.28 KE4HJQ RON MORGAN
AUG.28 KV4BY CLARENCE BAUER
AUG.29 KE4HOE FRED HADDAD
AUG.31 W4OPZ JOE SINGLETON
AUG.31 KF4DTC ABBIE MARSDEN

# FIELD DAY 1997

**By AF4EA Warren**

Saturday morning, 28 June at 0630 Fox Lake Park came alive with members of TARC. Roger KE4TRE and Mike KE4YGY were there waiting for us. Everything went up smoothly. Bud K4CWG came motoring in with the diesel bus. It was a nice CW shack. Butch KE4YQN and John KE4ZPA got some cool air flowing via an A/C unit for the bus. Our antenna team, Gene KC4TE, Roger KE4TRE, Mike KE4YGT, Jack KD4VFU with his arrows and a lot of help from other club members got everything up and functioning. Marty WD4JNM got all equipment together and Chuck KE4RIV had electric power flowing and continuous. Thanks to Wynn and Terry for the Pop-up. It was a nice rest area.

Everyone was very pleased with the meal Saturday night provided by Wynn and Terry. "Best Sloppy Joe's I ever had" was repeated by a lot of consumers.

We went on the air on time but mother nature shut us down for a couple of hours. We had a few antenna problems that were quickly resolved by Roger and Mike - our MVP's of Field Day. Danny KE4OZD and family kept 2 meter and 6 meters going continuously as Ozzie N4SCY did with packet. Danny's wife had some delicious early morning breakfast. It was great! Thanks to Allen KC4UUX and Ken KD4HNW for the Porta Potty's. They were a great convenience. Thank ALL of you for dropping by. We maintained a core of about 35 most of the time, but you - the club - made it a very successful Field Day. Our thirst was taken care of by the drinks and ice provided by Pike W4EPU and Cliff KC4SYD.

I couldn't name all, but I do appreciate the support of all.

## THE FIVE PRINCIPLES OF HAM RADIO
## OR
## WHAT A PICNIC!

**By KC4VIO Jose**

In Section 97.1 of its Rules, the FCC describes the basis and purpose of the amateur service. It consists of five principles:

1. Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary non-commercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.
2. Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.
3. Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communications and technical phases of the art.
4. Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians and electronics experts.
5. Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.

These five principles provide the basis and purpose for the amateur service, as set down by the FCC.

Members of the Titusville Amateur Radio Club have consistently abided by these principles and on July 27, 1997, had the opportunity to first hand exercise and practice the fifth principle to the enjoyment of many. TARC and the Mosquito Net hosted a welcome picnic for 45 Brazilian visitors in the city of Titusville.

Brazilian amateur radio operator Ivan (Alex) Seelig PY2IJS, Mosquito Stinger #277, brought to our city members of his Good Will Language School in Brazil. They chose to visit Titusville as a result of his radio contacts with members of the Mosquito Net and Mike Hadley KT4VA from Merritt Island throughout the years. The group was welcomed by city councilman Robin Fisher, TARC president Bud Hughes K4CWG, Mosquito Net manager Carole Ann Ramos KC4VIN, and a large number of TARC members.

The typical American picnic fare of hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salad, baked beans, desserts, soft drinks and all the trimmings was served pool side at the Holiday Inn where the group stayed. Live entertainment was provided by Bill KT4CQ and Warren AF4EA who played the guitar and sang country western songs for everyone's pleasure. The visitors joined in the singing and a young girl demonstrated the Brazilian Bottle Dance to the amazement of many (you should have been there),

Sincere thanks were expressed by the visiting group to the many club members responsible for the success of this event by their support and attendance. Particular kudos for Sherry KF4HTC, Pat KF4LTY, Patty KF4MUV, John KE4ZPA, Butch KE4YQN, and yours truly, Jose KC4VIO.

## EDITOR'S DESK

**By ClydeK4EOS**

### REPEATER COURTESY

The TARC repeaters are open to all hams; however, these repeaters need to be shared by all users. To wit: Be a good neighbor on the air. It has recently been noted that some hams ragchew for hours and tie up the repeater. Then when another ham tries to use it, they will not relinquish it. We have two VHF repeaters and one UHF repeater.

If you MUST carry on long conversations, alternate between these repeaters. Better still, use the PHONE or SIMPLEX. If you do not understand simplex most any club member will explain it to you

## ADVANCES IN IMPERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS

**From 7/97 FLA SKIP**

TOKYO, JAPAN, 1997 JUN 20 (NB) - By Martyn Williams, NEC Corporation [TOKYO:6701] has begun sales of a computerized telephone reception system. It can recognize names of people requested, transfer calls to them, or advise callers in the case that they are not available to take calls.

NEC said the new system will help companies that receive a large number of calls because it removes the need for many receptionists. The company estimates that an office which accepts 30 calls per hour looses 480 hours of work time a year in receiving these calls.

The automated system sells for 350,000 yen ($3,062) and NEC says it hopes to sell 1000 units in the coming year.

## MIKE SWITCH CURES

**From 8/97 QST**
**Hints & Kinks**

No doubt many hams have experienced intermittent mike-switch trouble. Most of these troubles involve the mike cable or connector. There are, however, times when the fault lies within the tiny, sealed switch. Such was the case with my Kenwood 7950 transceiver. The switch generally would not operate unless I held it in my hand for an extended period. Because this is essentially a "dry switching" application (near zero current), it occurred to me that running a significant current through the switch might clean the contacts and cure the problem.

I disconnected the switch from the circuit, connected a 120 V. 50 W light bulb in series with the switch contacts and connected the combination to the 60 Hz supply mains. (***Be careful!*** Do not inadvertently include the microphone element in the circuit!). With the ac connected, I repeatedly cycled the switch. The light bulb showed that the switch was intermittent during the first few cycles. After fewer than a dozen repetitions, the lamp began to glow brightly, steadily and behave normally. After several dozen more cycles, the contacts performed perfectly! When I reconnected the mike to the transceiver, the problem seems to have been permanently (?) cured. I am confident that this treatment will cure many switches used for low-current switching. K. K. Goshay, W6MMU, Rte 1, Box 1107, Golden, MO 65658; e-mail W6MMU@aol.com

**ED. NOTE:** Do this only on ac circuits protected by a ground-fault interrupter! Even then, running 120 V ac through a cable not rated for that voltage is inherently unsafe. Just because the author got away with it doesn't mean that you will. Ac line voltages are potentially lethal; use this procedure at your own risk! Most switch contacts can be cleared more safely with 12 V dc and a 31891 pilot lamp.

## THE DOCTOR IS IN

**From 8/97 QST**

**Q** Bob Hudgens, WA6KUC, asks, "Several years ago, those of us with Technician tickets were told that we could be grandfathered to General class by just passing our 13 WPM code tests. Is this still the case?"

**A** Yes. If you have an active Technician license granted prior to March 3, 1987, you will receive credit for test elements 1A, 2, 3(A) and 3(B). Volunteer examiners (Ves) are required to verify that you held a Technician license before March 21, 1987. They cannot accept a call sign or *Callbook* reference.

Here is what we tell our ARRL Ves: "For grandfather Element 3B credit, only an original license or a copy which was issued on or before 3/21/87 is acceptable by Ves. VECs may be able to allow such credit based upon an original CSCE issued before that date which shows Element 3 credit for passing the (then) 50 question Technician/General written test."

The Ves will also accept a verification letter from the FCC. To obtain this letter, write to FCC and request a "Letter of Verification of Technician License Held Prior to March 21, 1987." Mail (or fax 717-338-2696) your request to: FCC, 1270 Fairfield Rd., Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245. If you include reference to a fax number in your reply, the FCC will fax your verification letter to you. Normal turnaround at FCC is three to five business days after receipt.

## MORE MORSE AT THE MOVIES

**From 8/97 QST**
**Correspondence**

I enjoyed reading "Morse at the Movies" by Donald Cox, AA3EK,in the April 1997, QST. Concerning the film *Midway*, I was the engineer in the Universal Studios sound department at that time. I created nearly all of the sound effects of various naval guns and so on. In addition, I sent the CW that was ultimately used in the movie. The text was written by the head of the editorial department and I sent exactly what he wrote. That's the reason for the gibberish!

By the way, if you were lucky enough to see *Midway* in theaters with the Sensur-round sound system, I hope it was a memorable occasion. I'm proud to sat that I am the person who developed it.

I'm glad to hear that people listen closely to CW effects in movies - and well they should. Sometimes the editors allow us to get real messages through! Bob Leonard, KE6DM, Hacienda Heights, CA.

For the collection of Morse in movies, I have another to add. Watch the 1965 film *Our Man Flint*, starring James Coburn, Lee J. Cobb and Gila Golan.

At the end of the movie, James Coburn finds himself on "Galaxy Island.: Entering the radio room, he sends a CW message. To anyone listening it translated to: "Mountain Island, Latitude 18 degrees, 9 minutes north. Longitude 11 degrees, 3 minutes west. Destroy--Destroy." Ronnie S. Vician, K9OCE, Chicago, IL.

## INTERNET NEWS

**From W5YI Report 6/1/97**

Check out the Microcult website, (Located at: http://www.microcult.com) It is a Microsoft spoof site. And there are many other such sites on the Internet. "The MSBC Super List of Anti-Microsoft Websites" lists about 80 of them!

Another site, the "Bill Gates Personal Wealth Clock" keeps track of his fortune in real time and "Your Personal Contribution" by downloading the U.S.Census, the Microsoft stock price and shares owned by Gates. (Today's report had Gates worth $34,1607 billion, U.S.population: 267,298,900,...or $127.80 from every U.S. citizen.

There is a great Java World Clock on the Internet that simultaneously shows the current time (incremented each second) for all 24 time zones around the world. You can program the clock to display in AM/PM, 24-hour format and Daylight/Standard time. You simply select your offset from GMT and "push" some on-screen buttons.
Address is:
hhtp://www.arachnold.com/lutusp/worldclock.htm
Bookmark this site!

A U.S. bingo game is offered at:
http://www.bingozone.com which the site owners say is legal. And it well may be. There is no cost to play, but you can win real cash prizes every 20 minutes. The site is advertiser supported.

## NEW BOOKS
## CRYSTAL SET PROJECTS: 15 RADIO PROJECTS YOU CAN BUILD

**Rebecca Hewes, Editor**
**From 8/97 QST**

Published by the Xtal Set Society, Box 3026, St. Louis, MO 63130; e-mail xtalset@midnightscience.com; http:// www/ midnightscience.com. tel 314-725-1172; fax 314-725-7062. First edition, first printing; paperback 6x9 inches. 160 pp. B&W illus. ISBN 1-887736-06-9. $14.95 plus $2.50 S&H.

Reviewed by Steve Ford, WB8IMY
Managing Editor

Imagine a radio that works without a power source of any kind, except for the energy contained in the radio waves themselves. In today's consumer electronics society, such a concept seems inconceivable. Even among younger hams the idea is as alien as the surface of Venus.

But many of today's veteran amateurs began their love affairs with radio by building such "magical" receivers. Their designs were deceptively simple. They consisted of little more than large coils, variable capacitors, diodes or galena crystals, and earphones. With enough wire strung all over kingdom come and a decent ground, these modest *crystal radios* could receive local AM broadcast signals - and sometimes much more.

I have a special place in my heart for crystal sets. I built my first one when I was 10 years old (I didn't discover Amateur Radio until I was 14). I wrapped magnet wire around a toilet paper tube, covered it with shellac (except for the exposed portions where the arm of my adjustable tap would make contact). With a venerable 1N34A germanium diode and a 3654 pF variable capacitor, I was astonished to hear the Beatles buzzing in my little earphone, courtesy of WING, 1410 kHz.

You can imagine my surprise when I recently discovered a entire society devoted to the love of crystal radio design. I stumbled upon the Web site of the Xtal Set Society (http://midnightscience.com) one afternoon and all the old memories came flooding back. Soon thereafter I managed to get my hands on their latest book, *Crystal Set Projects*.

The book contains a compilation of projects, several of which were authored by hams. All of the projects in this edition were winners of a Society design competition. They range from the very simple to the very complex. When you're faced with the challenge of squeezing the most oomph from the either without an amplifier, and preserving good selectivity at the same time, you come up with a variety of creative approaches.

Each project is described in detail, and all include parts lists (and sources). Whenever possible, the authors attempt to use easy-to-find components. They're still using empty toilet paper tubes for coil forms, although several are also made from PVC pipe and other materials. Spray Krylon seems to have replaced shellac, though.

I was particularly intrigued by the elaborate multiple-tuned coil designs, as well as a high-performance model that offered short-wave broadcast reception. It never occurred to me to attempt true DX with one of these rigs, but they're doing it!

Antennas and ground systems are critical to good crystal radio performance, and *Crystal Set Projects* devotes a considerable number of pages to these topics. the multiturn indoor loop antenna featured in the book is a work of art.

As the editor states in the preface to *Crystal Set Projects,* success requires patience. Building a crystal set is about as close to "roots radio" as you can get. You're going all the way back to the techniques employed by Marconi, Loomis and the other pioneers. So, if you want a taste of *real* radio, turn off your microprocessor-controlled, amplification-out-of-the-wazoo transceiver for a few evenings. Spend some time with *Crystal Set Projects* and get acquainted with the magic that is still, indeed "in the air."

## ABELL'S ANECDOTES
**By Pike W4EPU**

***Log On:*** Making the campfire hotter.
***Log Off***: Making the campfire cooler.
***Monitor:*** Keep an eye on the campfire.
***Download:*** Getting the firewood off the pickup.
***Floppy Disk***: What happens to your back from too much downloading.
***Mega Hertz***: When Mega is not careful downloading.
***Ram***: The ewes mate.
***Hard Drive***: Getting home in a thunderstorm.
***Prompt:*** What you wish the mail was.
***Windows***: What to shut during a hurricane.
***Screen***: What you need for mosquito season.
***Byte:*** What mosquitoes do.
***Chip:*** Something to munch on.
***Micro chip***: What's left in the bag when the chips are gone.
***Dot Matrix:*** Fred Matrix's wife.
***Infrared:*** Where the leftovers go when Fred's around.
***Mouse***: What makes Dot squeal when she sees one.
***Modem***: What you did to the front & back yard.
***Lap Top:*** Where little kids feel comfy.
***Keyboard:*** Where you hang your keys.
***Software***: Plastic eating utensils.
***Port***: Fancy wine.
***Enter***: C'mon in, Y'all!
***Random Access Memory***: You can't remember how much that handheld cost when your wife asks.
73s es 88s

## JULY MEETING
**By Marty WD4JNMT**

The meeting was called to order by President Bud Hughes, K4CWG at 1910 hours. After the Pledge, moment of silence and introduction of members and guests (42 in total), Bud asked Jose KC4VIO and/or Carole KC4VIN to tell the club about plans for the picnic honoring the Brazilian group due into Titusville on July 27. Jose said that Alex Seelig PY2US, a member of the Mosquito Net from Brazil, would be bringing a group of 47 people to Titusville for a 3-day visit. They will visit the cape (arranged by Mike Hadley KT4VA) and several of the surrounding area beaches. Jose asked for the support (financial and physical) of the club in preparing a welcoming picnic for the group. A motion was made, seconded and carried by a show of hand that the club support the Mosquito Net in this endeavor.

Bill W2SDB played Happy Birthday to the July birthday members. He also played a medley of Bud's 3 favorite songs.

The following new members were voted into the club: W1KBI Robert Brink, W9KBV Bill Gibbons, KF4SEL Robert Cohen, KF4RWL Theresa Shinn. N3BSH John Manos.

Les K4SJC talked about the digital recorder and what it will do for the repeater when it is operating properly. He also told the club that the 146.970 repeater will now be assigned to AF4EA.

Pike W4EPU reminded everyone that a Delta Rocket was scheduled to launch later in the evening.

The club will send letters of appreciation to Anderson Rental for the use of their equipment during Field Day weekend.

## TREASURER'S REPORT
**By Clyde Lee K4EOS**

| | |
|---|---|
| Balance Forward From 1996 | 5703.59 |
| Deposits Year To Date | 3770.00 |
| **TOTAL INCOME** | **9473.59** |
| Expenditures | 5875.12 |
| **BALANCE AS AT 07/31/97** | **3598.47** |
| FEMA Escrow | 2363.75 |
| **BALANCE-CLUB FUNDS** | **$1234.72** |

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Total membership: 276 (202 regular, 68 family, 6 honorary)

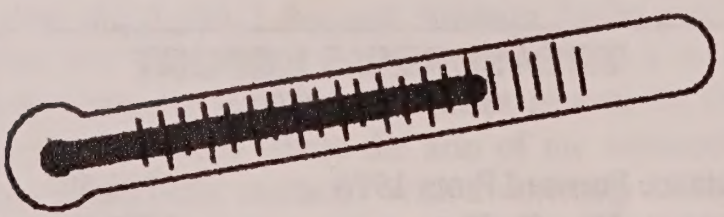
NEW MEMBERS: N3BSH JOHN MANOS
KB0OQJ KEN HITCHCOCK
KF4RWK TERESA SHINN
KF4SEK NICHOLAS GRAY

RENEWALS: 000000 SHAUN SHAW, JR.
KE4AGO ED REALY
KD4CBV GEORGE BORTLE
KE4BBL CINDY BORTLE
KE4BBM NICHOLAS SARGENTIN
KF4IGK GRANT HAHNE
AE4OJ DAVE GREENWALD
KE4TQZ SANDY GREENWALD
KE4RIV CHUCK MANION
KF4FEY PENNY COPELAND
W2SDB BILL EPPLEY
KD4TLR STEVE BIDWELL
N4ZNQ JIM MEEKS

**HAMFESTS:**

| | |
|---|---|
| 09/13-14 | Melbourne |
| 09/21 | New Port Richey |
| 09/27 | Sunrise |
| 10/11 | Tampa |
| 10/18 | Starke |
| 10/18-19 | West Palm Beach |
| 10/24-25 | Miami |
| 11/01 | Sorrento |
| 11/08 | Titusville |
| 11/8 | Port St.Lucie |
| 11/15-16 | Miami Hamboree |
| 11/22-23 | Tampa |
| 12/6 | Okeechobee |
| 12/6 | Ocala |
| 12/13 | Lake City |

**TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**
**P. O. BOX 73**
**TITUSVILLE FL 32781-0073**



***HOT! HOT! HOT!***